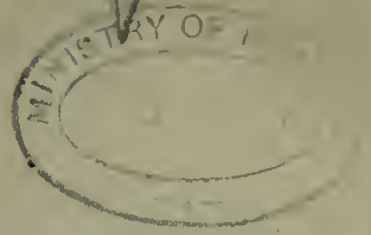


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SHIFNAL & BLYMHILL RURAL DISTRICT.

A N N U A L R E P O R T .

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1 9 2 5

SHIFNAL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the Sanitary circumstances and administration of the district for the year ending December 31st. 1925.

The Memorandum of the Ministry of Health directs that a "Survey" Report be prepared dealing with (a) The measure of progress made in the area during the preceding five years in the improvement of the public Health, (b) The extent and character of the changes made during that period in the public health services of the area, (c) Any further action of importance in the organization and developement of public health services contemplated by the Local Authority or considered desirable by the Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

SHIFNAL RURAL DISTRICT.

Area (in acres).	-	-	39,659
Population (Census 1921)	-	-	7,670
" estimated 1925.	-	-	7,586
Number of inhabited houses, 1921.	-	-	1,798
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1921.			1,817
Rateable Value.			
Sum represented by a penny rate.			

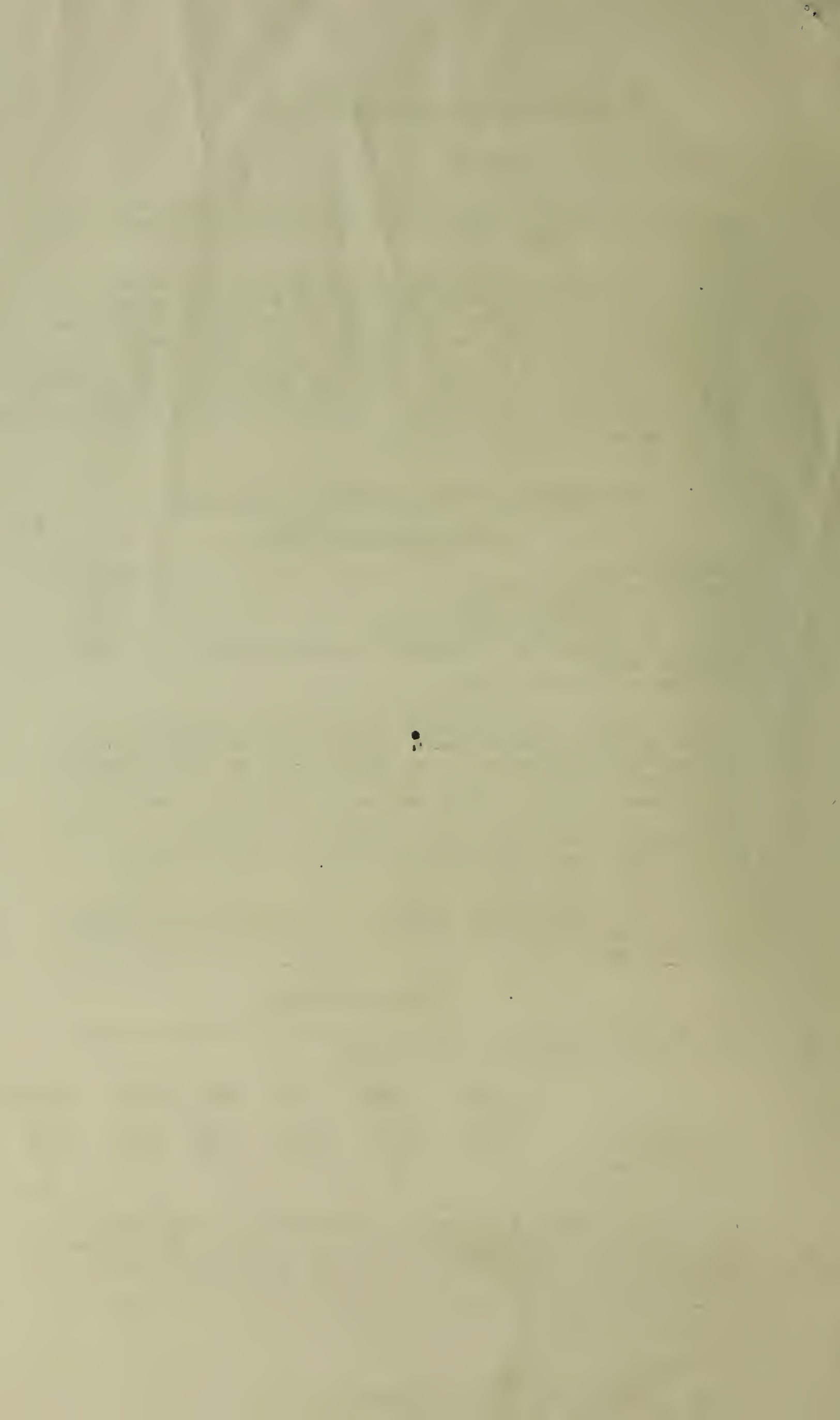
The district is situated on the eastern boundary of the County and comprises 14 civil parishes, it is undulating in contour and well wooded. It overlies the New Red Sandstone except on the western side, which is on the Coal measures. It is almost entirely rural and agricultural with an average of one person to five acres. Shifnal is the market town and Albrighton a large residential village. A large proportion of the population are engaged in agriculture or employed on one of the numerous residential estates. There are two coal mines on the western boundary, most of the employees live in the neighbouring districts. A wire works at Shifnal and the Chemical Works at Stirchley provide employment for about 100 men.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates for the years 1920 - 1924 are set out below.

	<u>1920</u>	<u>1921</u>	<u>1922</u>	<u>1923</u>	<u>1924</u>	<u>Average.</u>
Birth-rate.	21.09	18.86	18.6	21.4	18.4	19.67
Death-rate.	11.76	13.3	12.6	8.7	12.8	11.83
Infantile Mor-)						
tality Rate.)	36	21	49	42	49	39

There is slight fall in the birth-rate for the five years under review as compared with the pre-war years, but marked improvement has taken place in both the general and infant death-rates:-



	<u>Birth-rate.</u>	<u>Death-rate.</u>	<u>Infantile Mortality rate.</u>
Average of years 1909-13.	20.6	13.5	74
1920 - 24.	19.6	11.8	39

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1925.

The births during the year totaled 106 of which 55 were male infants and 51 female. The birth-rate for the year is 13.9 of the population. Six births were illegitimate equal to 5.6 per cent. The birth-rate is lower than it has been for many years.

Eighty deaths were registered belonging to Shifnal Rural District, and the death-rate for the year is 10.5 as compared with an average of 11.8 for the preceding five years and 12.2 for England and Wales for the year 1925.

The chief causes of death were: Influenza 2; Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System 6; Cancer 6; Cerebral haemorrhage 9; Heart Disease 21; Bronchitis 6; Pneumonia 5; Duodenal Ulcer 1; Nephritis 3; Deaths from Violence 3; Other defined diseases 17; Cause unknown 1.

More than half the deaths were in persons over seventy years of age.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Only one death of an infant under 12 months took place and the resulting Infantile Mortality Rate is 9 per thousand births. The cause to which the death was assigned was convulsions. The rate for England and Wales of the year was 75. The general death-rate and Infant are very satisfactory for 1925, they are remarkably low even in a healthy year, and the Infantile Mortality is specially note worthy.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDIZED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| (1) Tuberculosis. | (a) Shirlett Sanatorium.
(b) Prees Heath Sanatorium for
advanced cases of
Tuberculosis.
(c) Shropshire Orthopaedic,
Oswestry. |
| (2) Maternity. | Beds are subsidized at Newport Nursing
Home and Much Wenlock Hospital. |
| (3) Children. | Home for Ailing Babies at Wellington,
provided by the County Council. |
| (4) Fever. | Nil. |
| (5) Smallpox. | Steeraway Hospital provided by the
County Council. |

- (6) Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, Shrewsbury, subsidized by County Council for Ophthalmia Neonatorum and School cases.

Shifnal Cottage Hospital 8 beds.

Institutional Provision has been arranged by the County Council with the Legge Memorial Home, Wolverhampton, for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. (a) For Infectious cases the County ambulance is available. (b) For non-infectious and accident cases, there is none in the district.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.	Nil.
Day Nurseries.	- Nil.
School clinic.	- Nil.
Tuberculosis Dispensary at Oakengates not in the district.	
V. D. Belmont, Shrewsbury.	

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Mr. S. Hodgkiss, the Sanitary Inspector, holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. He is in addition Inspector under the Housing and Meat Regulations and has the supervision of the sewage outfall works at Shifnal and Albrighton. A contribution is made to his salary and that of the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health Acts.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

a. General. There are district nurses maintained by local nursing associations in the parishes of Shifnal, Albrighton, Stockton, Sheriffhales, and Kemberton with Beckbury and Ryton.

b. For Infectious Diseases. The County Council provide a nurse in epidemics of Measles, Whooping Cough and Influenza and for the home nursing of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

MIDWIVES. The Local Authority do not employ or subsidize a midwife. There are fourteen practising in the district.

CHEMICAL WORK. Eighteen water samples from private supplies were submitted for analysis and report to the Medical Officer of Health during the period under review. Ten were found to be unsatisfactory.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE. The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act and certain parts of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act have been adopted.

In 1924 the Model Byelaws for Rural Districts were adopted by the Council for New Streets and buildings. There are also Byelaws in force in respect of Nuisances, Common Lodging-houses and Slaughter houses.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water. The town of Shifnal, the village of Kemberton and a number of farms and cottages in the parish of Shifnal receive their supply from the Harrington Wells belonging to the Borough of Wenlock and situated in the district. The water is taken by the Council in bulk and is of good quality and the supply is constant. This supply should be extended to the hamlet of Brockton, where the majority of the wells have been examined and found to be badly polluted and quite unfit for domestic use. During the period under review the mains have extended to a number of outlying groups of houses in the parish of Shifnal, the most important being the Coppice Green extension of 2000 yards. Nearly every house in Albrighton is supplied from the Wolverhampton main from Cosford Water works. This has recently been extended to the parish of Ryton, where all the village is now connected.

The Oakengates Council having recently purchased the Hilton Bank water works from the Duke of Sutherland, the supply for the parish of Sheriffhales is now taken in bulk from the present owners. Ninety four houses in the parish receive their water from this source out of a total of 152.

The private supply that has hitherto been in use at Beckbury Village has been purchased by the Council. Its use for other than domestic purposes should be prohibited, and any further extension of the main carefully considered. An additional storage tank appears to be necessary. The pressure in the mains at times is very poor. The management will require to be very efficient, otherwise the supply will become intermittent.

The private schemes supplying the villages of Weston, Stockton Norton and Sutton Maddock have been well maintained.

Eight houses were connected to the public main during the year, and 356 yards of 3 inch main was laid to Shaw Lane from the Shifnal main. Seven public pumps and wells were put in repair.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The natural drainage of the district is to the south by a number of small streams, the chief being the ~~Thad~~ Wesley and Tong brookes, which unite to form the river Whorf. This discharges into the Severn beyond the southern boundary. They are all free from gross pollution.

Drainage & Sewerage. In Shifnal all houses are connected with the sewer, which are modern, and have flushing chambers and are ventilated. The outfall works are half a mile outside the town and consist of Settling and Septic tanks and an area of land on which the effluent passes in channels. The sewage is weak on account of the large amount of ground water getting into the sewers and a good effluent is obtained, which is discharged into the Wesley Brook.

At Albrighton all the houses are connected and the works are producing a very satisfactory effluent. Six connections were made during the year.

Closet Accommodation. During the last five years fifty privies have been abolished and water closets substituted and nineteen were converted during 1925. In Shifnal Mr. Hodgkiss states the privies are now reduced to about forty and pail closets to 20. With an efficient sewage works the completion of this work should be rapidly undertaken in the interest of the town.

Scavenging. In the town of Shifnal the scavenging is done by contract both for ashes and ~~de~~crement, the former is deposited on a tip provided by the council and the latter on agricultural land. In all other parts of the area it is the duty of the tenant and is as a rule satisfactorily dealt with. At Albrighton an arrangement for its removal by contract and the provision of a tip would be a great benefit to the village.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Attached to the Report is a summary of the Sanitary work done during the year. A very large number of premises have been visited, and five legal and forty three informal notices were served, forty four of which have been complied with, and a large number of useful sanitary improvements in drainage, closet accommodation and water supplies have been carried through.

Schools. There was very little infectious disease amongst school children during the year, and consequently no necessity for school closure.

The remedy of the unsatisfactory closet accommodation and drainage at Sutton Maddock School is still delayed. This matter has now been before the Council periodically for some years and a statutory notice could not be considered an unduly harsh method of dealing with it.

HOUSING.

I. General Housing conditions. During the last five years 36 new houses were erected in the district, and about six closed and demolished. The population shows a decrease of about one hundred during the same time. A number of the houses erected were for people living outside the district, and about half were cottages for workmen in the district. The need for houses arises from the lack of building during the war, and the necessity for replacing unfit houses at present in occupation. The original estimate of the Council of thirty for Shifnal and twenty for Albrighton seems still to hold good. Each year a few cases of overcrowding have to be dealt with, they are chiefly due to the absence of a third bedroom and are successfully dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector.

III. The general character of the defects that exist in unfit houses are mostly the result of age and original design, and in some cases no doubt of lack of proper management and supervision by owners.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

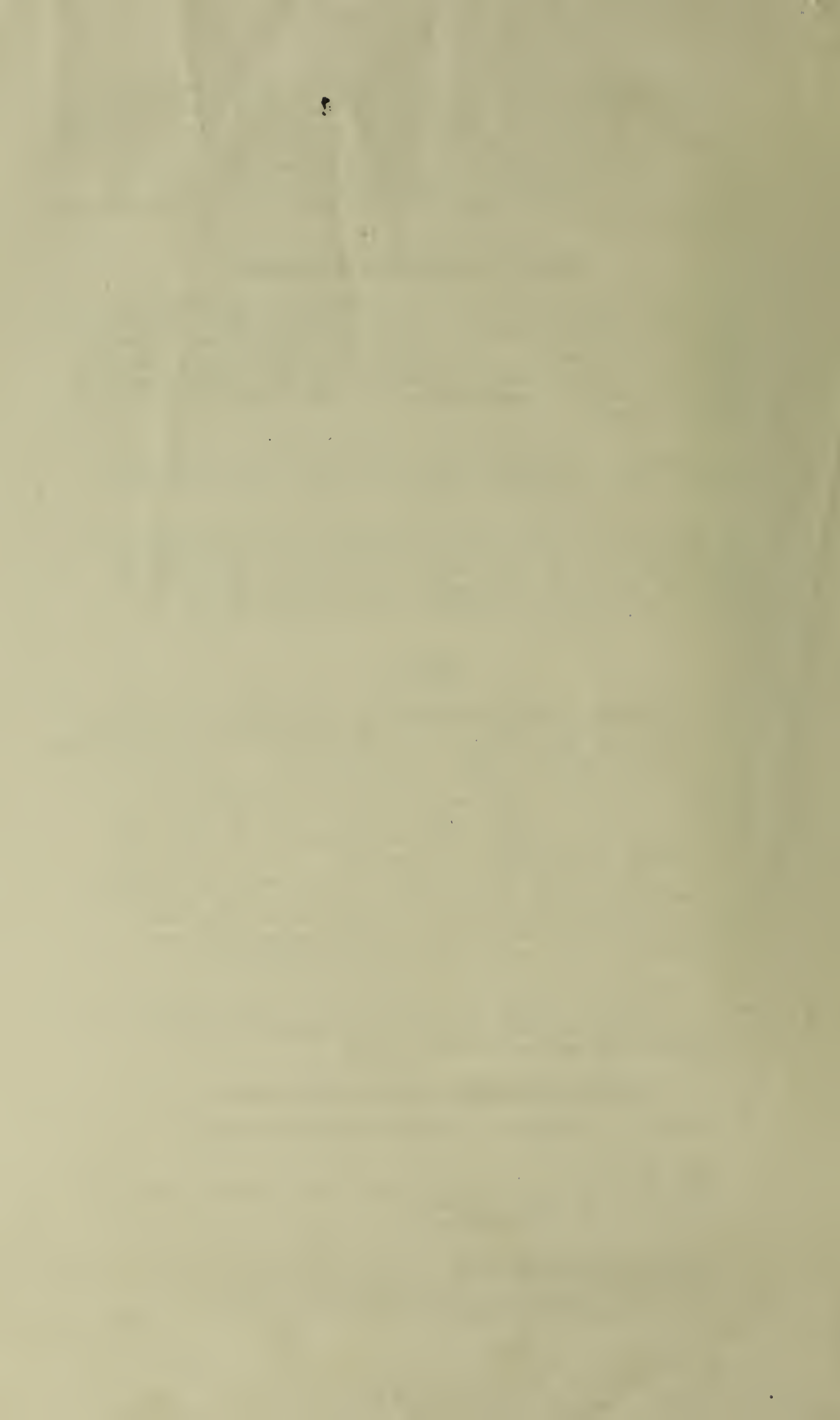
Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(a)	Total	-	-	-	15
(b)	With State assistance under the Housing Acts:				
	1.	By Local Authority.	-		0
	2.	By other persons.	-		8

I. Unfit-Dwelling-houses.

Inspection:

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects.	-	150
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(2)	Number of dwelling-houses inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations.	-	150
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous and injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	-	2
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	-	35

II. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority on their Officers.	-	28
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III. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.	Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act 1925.		
1.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.		35
2.	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:		
a.	By owner.	-	25
b.	By Local Authority.	-	0
3.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close.	-	0
B.	Proceedings under Public Health acts.		
1.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	-	15
2.	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.		
a.	By owner.	-	14
b.	By Local Authority in default of owners.	-	0
C.	Proceedings under sections 11, 14, 15 of the Housing Act 1925.		Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

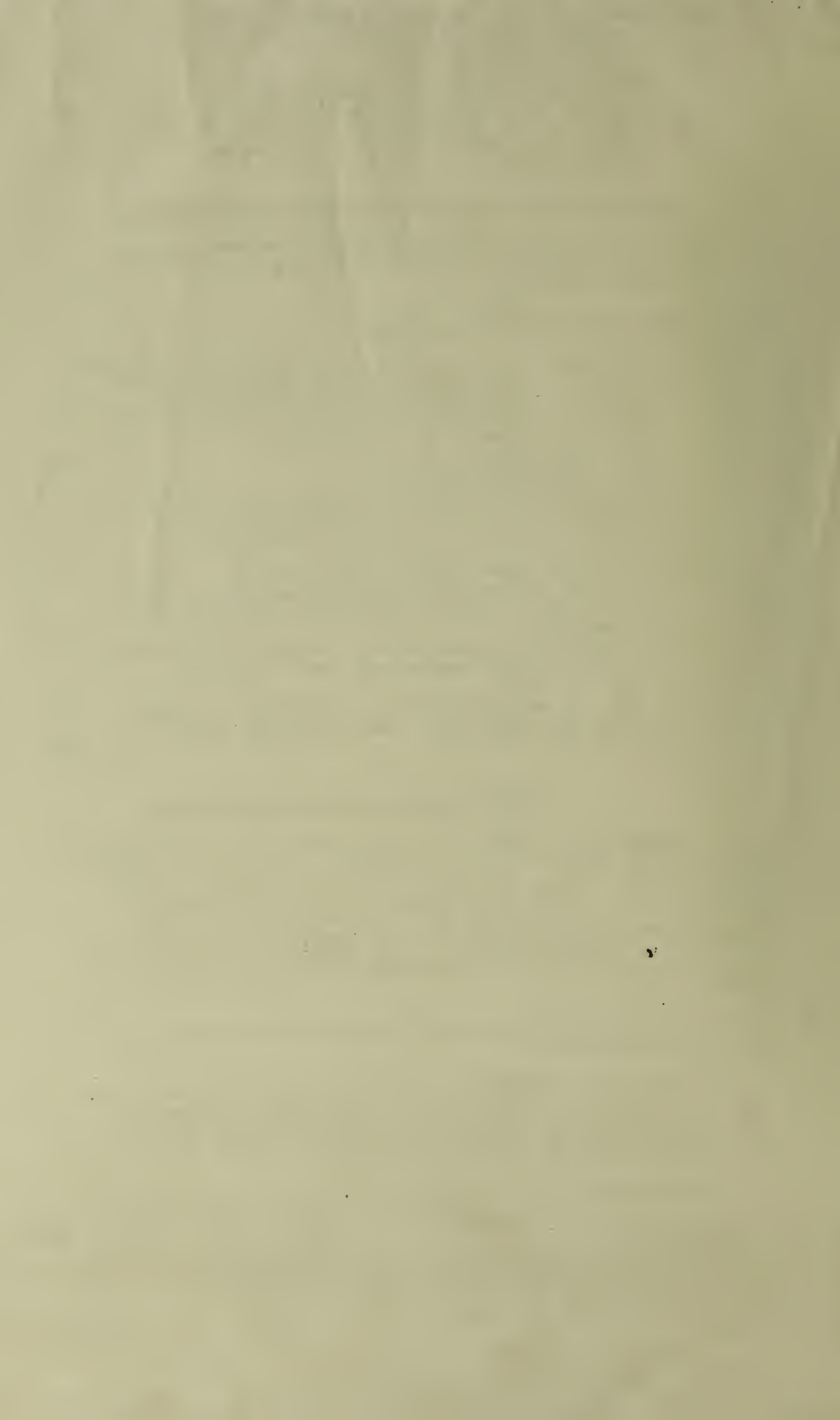
a. Milk Supply. There are fifty cowkeepers on the Register, and a large amount of milk is produced and exported to the neighbouring towns. The local supply is abundant and of good quality. Seven notices were served on account of defect in floors, drainage and cleanliness and all were complied with. No action has been necessary in regard to Tuberculosis milk or cattle. One license has been granted in the district by the County Council for the Production of Grade A. milk.

No refusals or revocation of registration of retailers have been necessary.

b. Meat. Mr. Hodgkiss has been appointed Meat Inspector and visits the Slaughter-Houses at the time of Slaughter. Three sheep and two calves were condemned during the year. The butchers are conforming to the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924 in a very fair manner.

The following is a statement of Private Slaughter-houses:

	<u>In 1920</u>	<u>In Jan. 1925.</u>	<u>In Dec. 1925.</u>
Registered.	4.	3.	3.
Licensed.	6.	6.	6.
	-----	-----	-----
	10.	9	9
	-----	-----	-----



c. Other Foods. The bake houses are inspected regularly and are in good sanitary condition.

PREVALENCE OF, and CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following notifications were received during the five years under review:

	<u>1920</u>	<u>1921</u>	<u>1922</u>	<u>1923</u>	<u>1924</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Diphtheria.	2	1	3	1	3	10
Scarlet Fever.	2	2	2	5	16	27
Pneumonia.		1			1	2
Erysipelas.	1		1		3	5
Ophthalmia.	1		2			3
Encephalitis)						
Lethargica.)	1	1		1		3
Puerperal Fever.	1					1
Tuberculosis:						
Pulmonary	4	6	8	10	4	32
Non-pulmonary.	4	2	2	7	5	20
	16	13	18	24	32	103

Diphtheria has been absent from the district for many years in epidemic form. Isolated cases of mild type occurred very occasionally during the five years.

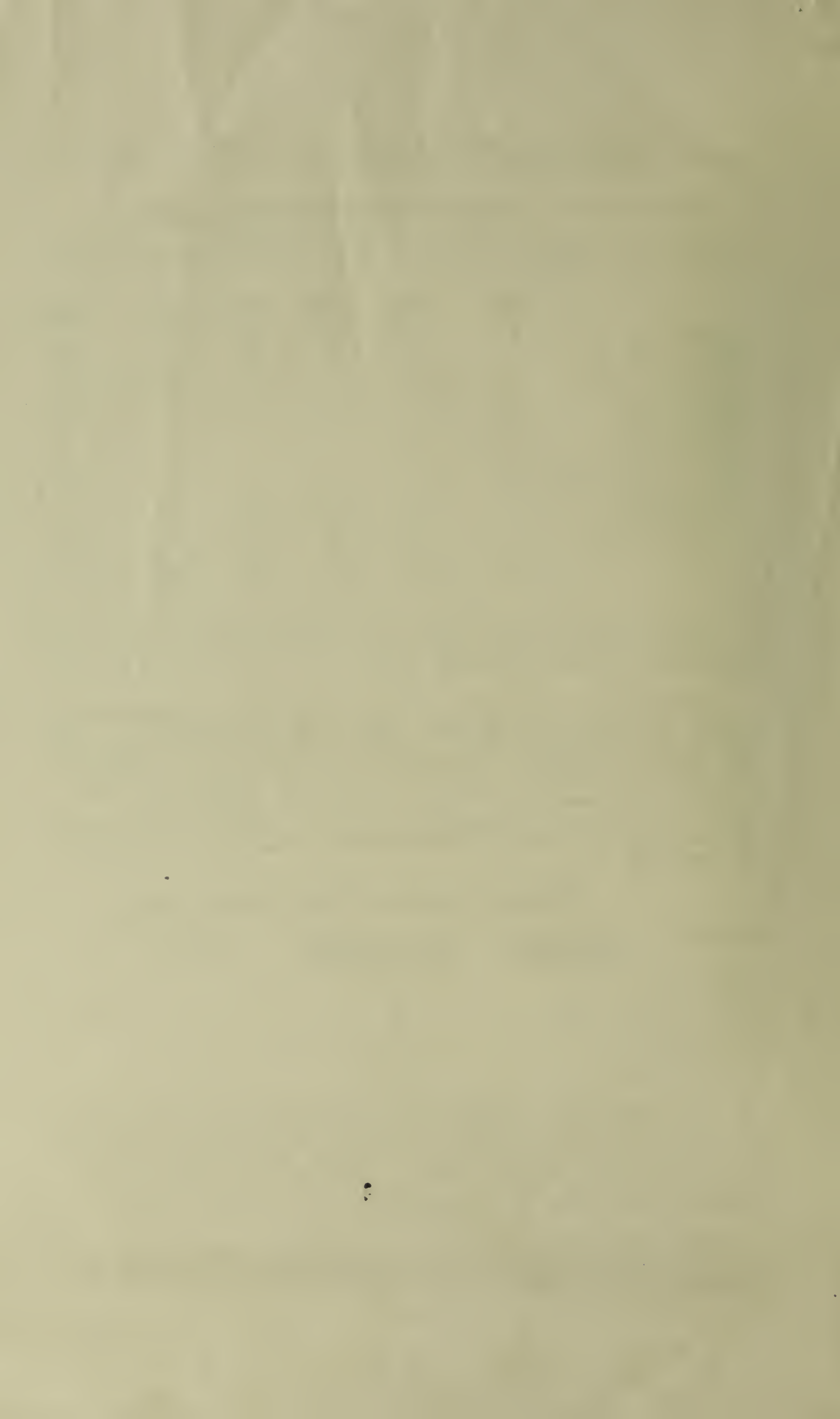
Scarlet Fever has had a similar incidence to Diphtheria during the period and has been very mild and indefinite. Only one case of Puerperal Fever, three of Ophthalmia and three of Encephalitis Lethargica occurred in the years under review. From the record of the district it will be evident that the necessity for removal of cases to Hospital seldom arises. The Council have made an arrangement with the Board of the Atcham and Shrewsbury Hospital to receive cases into their hospital in emergency.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1925.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Diphtheria	5	0	0
Scarlet Fever.	13	0	0
Erysipelas.	1	0	0
Encephalitis)			
Lethargica.)	1	0	0

There were five sporadic cases of Diphtheria spread over the year in various parishes. Scarlet Fever was prevalent in the Kemberton parish and at Brockton for about three months and eleven cases occurred here. They were all fairly mild and no deaths took place. Antitoxin is provided by the Council in the case of poor persons.

Under the arrangement made by the County Council, the following were examined by the Bacteriological Department of Birmingham University:



Throat swabs	16.	Dip. Bac	present	5.	Absent	11.
Sputum.	8.	Tub. Bac	present	3.	"	6.
Blood.	2.	Widals Reaction	absent	2.		

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TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Period.	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
5	1					1		
10								
15								
20		1			1	1		
25	1					1		
35	1	1			1			
45	1							
55	1				1			
65	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	5	2			3	3		
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Three of the notified cases died within a few months and three were under treatment at Shirlett. At the end of the June quarter there were on the Tuberculosis Register for the district 34 Pulmonary and 7 non-pulmonary cases, a total of 41 under supervision of the Tuberculosis officers.

BLYMHILL RURAL DISTRICT.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area in acres.	-	-	5,462
Population (Census 1921)	-	-	676
" 1925.	-	-	685
Number of inhabited houses.	-	-	183
Rateable Value.	-	-	£8,250
Sum represented by a penny rate.	-	-	£25

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

There were 14 births recorded in the year, seven males and seven females. The Birth-rate is 20.4 per thousand of the population, the average for the preceding five years was 18.1 and the rate for England and Wales for the year 18.3. The deaths numbered 8 and the resulting death - rate is 11.6 as compared with an average of 12.6 for the previous five years and a rate 12.2 for England, Wales for the year.

The causes of death were: Cancer 1: Cerebral Haemorrhage 2: Heart Disease 3: Bronchitis 1: Pneumonia 1: Six out of the eight deaths were in persons over seventy years of age.

There were no deaths of infants under twelve months recorded. The average of the previous five years was 78. The Health Visitor paid 90 visits to infants under 12 months and 250 to children between one and five years, and six to expectant mothers.

There were two notifications of Diphtheria sent in during the year. One case, the District Nurse was removed to Hospital.

There is only one case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis on the district Register. The area has been very free from notifiable infectious disease for several years.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALFRED E. WHITE.

The following is an account furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, of Sanitary Work for the year ending 31st. December, 1925, in the Shifnal Rural Sanitary District.

a Number of houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey. - 523

a Please note that this number should include all houses inspected, including those under the Housing and Town Planning Act, but not houses that are visited for another purpose without an inspection of the premises.

Number of legal notices sent.	-	-	5
Number of informal notices sent.	-	-	43
Number of such notices complied with.	-	-	44
Number of letters written.	-	-	147

PARTICULARS OF SANITARY MATTERS REFERRED TO IN THE ABOVE NOTICES:-

(a) Houses to be disinfected after Infectious Disease.	21.
(b) Deficient or objectionable water supply.	10
(c) New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended.	47
(d) New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction.	23
(e) Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition.	10
(f) Offensive accumulations of all kinds.	22
(g) Animals so kept as to be a nuisance.	7
(h) Houses overcrowded.	2

Houses disinfected after infectious disease (other than phthisis)	18
Houses disinfected in case of phthisis.	3
Privies converted to water closets.	19
Privies converted to earth closets.	4
Plans for new houses passed.	10
Certificates issued for water supply to new houses.	10
Houses connected to public water supply.	8
Repairs to public pumps and wells.	7
New public wells.	-
Private wells re-constructed or improved.	-
Houses connected to public sewerage.	6
Lengths of new sewers laid.	-
Lengths of new water mains laid.	Sh w Lane. 356 yds. 3" cast iron main.

(Signed) S. HODGKISS.

Inspector.

INSPECTION OF DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS FOR THE YEAR
ended 31st December, 1925 in the Shifnal Rural Sanitary
District.

Number of cowkeepers and milksellers on register.	54
Number of premises - cowsheds.	50
dairies.	36
milkshops.	4
Number of inspections.	188
Defects found (1) in cowsheds:-	
(a) floor or cubic space.	-
(b) ventilation.	-
(c) lighting.	-
(d) structure of floor.	6
(e) drainage.	1
(f) cleanliness.	5
(
(2) in surroundings of cowsheds.	3
(3) in sanitary condition of drains.	4
(4) in sanitary condition of milkshops.	-
(5) in water supply.	-
Number of notices - verbal and written.	7
Number of these notices complied with.	7
Number of defects found and not yet remedied.	-

(Signed) S. HODGKISS.

Inspector.

